

Stand Up for Climate Justice

Across the world, the climate crisis is causing and intensifying droughts, hurricanes, floods, fires, disease and sea level rise.

But they don't impact us all equally.

Climate justice means acknowledging that while we may all be in the same storm, we are not all in the same boat when it comes to climate change. It impacts first and hardest the poorest people with the fewest resources, people who are vulnerable and marginalised.

Climate justice means admitting that the people paying the price of climate change are those who contributed the least to it. The climate crisis has primarily been caused by rich Northern countries, but it is the people in the Global South who are paying the price first and most.

Climate justice means requiring that the countries and companies which have contributed the most to climate change now contribute the most to dealing with it. The wealthy UK has been a key carbon emitter and has profited in the process. Fossil fuel companies have known they are causing climate change for decades but have deliberately blocked action to reduce carbon emissions. It's time to pay a fair share to help the countries, communities and people worst affected to cope with the climate crisis and develop sustainably.

Climate justice means ensuring the necessary shift to renewable energy also protects communities from exploitation, human rights abuses and pollution. The unsustainable mining of metals and minerals which are used to make solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicle batteries is devastating communities from Chile to China and causing untold environmental destruction. Climate justice means ensuring the shift to clean energy works for everybody.

For the sake of the world we all live in and the people in it, we call on the UK government to act for climate justice now. We must:

- **Pay our fair share: the UK, US and EU must increase, and actually pay, their climate finance pledges.** These are the countries which are responsible for the vast majority of carbon emissions. These are the countries which have profited from our unequal use of the world's resources. These are the countries which should now pay a fair share to enable people and communities across the world to survive and develop in the face of climate change.
- **Stop funding fossil fuels and finance a just transition.** Government must end all support for the coal, oil and gas industry and invest money in supporting countries to leapfrog to clean, renewable energy, with energy access for all. As part of this, our government must work to stop human rights abuses in energy supply chains, set legally binding targets on reducing resource use, and end the wasteful use of energy.
- **Support an international loss and damage fund paid for by polluters.** A climate tax on carbon polluters should be paid into a loss and damage fund. This would ensure fossil fuel companies and other polluters support countries and communities to recover from the devastation inflicted on them by the climate chaos this pollution has caused.
- **Cancel debt and stop allowing corporations to write the rules.** Trade and investment deals give corporations huge power. Fossil fuel companies are using trade agreements to sue governments trying to reduce carbon emissions. Debt and tax injustice drive deforestation and destructive mining, which themselves are based on colonial and unjust relationships. The UK must stop supporting corporate courts and champion debt relief to enable developing countries already drowning in debt to tackle the climate crisis.

What you can do:

Sign many petitions to the government. There is a page of them here – why not take 15 minutes and sign them all. You'll know a lot more about climate justice once you've read them!
www.climateactionleicesterandleicestershire.org.uk/index.php/petitions-to-sign

Write to your MP and ask them to push for government action on climate justice (both at the UN climate talks in November and afterwards). MPs don't act unless they hear from their constituents.

Talk to the people around you about climate justice – it needs to become part of everyday conversations.

You could watch and share

this 6-minute video “Is Climate Change Racist?”

www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/watch-is-climate-change-racist

this 6-minute video on climate justice:

<https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/stories-op/this-is-loss-and-damage-who-pays>

Get involved with a climate action group

- Climate Action L+L:

leicesterclimateaction@gmail.com

www.climateactionleicesterandleicestershire.org.uk

- Muslim Green Guardians:

info@greenguardiansleicester.org

www.instagram.com/greenguardiansleicester

- Hindu Climate Action:

namaste@hinduclimateaction.org

www.hinduclimateaction.org

- Leicester Friends of the Earth:

<https://leicesterfriendsoftheearth.blogspot.com>



Too often, it is Black and brown communities who have contributed least to the climate breakdown and yet end up suffering most. For either the climate action or the racial justice movement to fully succeed, they must be treated as inextricably linked. This is why The Race Equality Centre must draw attention to the reality that Climate Justice is Racial Justice, and bring together the voices of our communities to support the fight for the preservation of our planet.



The richest countries in the world today are not those with the most valuable natural resources, but those that ruthlessly plundered the resources of others while producing the vast majority of the world's carbon emissions. It's time we funded support for the countries on the front line of the climate crisis.



Debt, tax injustice and exploitation are preventing countries across the world from tackling climate change, developing sustainably, and recovering from devastating weather events. Debt must be cancelled and climate pledges met by the Global North.



The Global North has a duty to bring clean renewable energy to the countries, people and communities which have provided our raw materials for so long. The switch to renewable energy must include the Global South, not increase human rights abuses, exploitation and environmental destruction.



People across the world are experiencing climate change related disasters. But it's the poor and vulnerable who are suffering and being displaced the most. We need climate justice.